Besides the above categories of mail, the foreign postage rates for Printed Papers including Newspaper and Books, Registered Newspapers, Small Packets and Bulk Bags have also been revised upwards.

Braille Literature to all foreign countries continue to be exempted from postage except that it attracts levy of air surcharge when it is proposed to transmit it by Air.

In addition, supplementary charges for foreign parcels in the foreign post have also been revised with effect from 1-12-1991. The increase ranges from Rs. 5/- to 30/- rounded off in multiples of Rs. 5/-.

(c) The Postal system in the country is operating at a reasonably satisfactory level. However the following are some of the contemplated measures to further improve the services:

(i) To motivate the postal employees it is proposed to give the Best Postman Award on Quarterly basis for each Postal Division in the country;

(ii) To take steps to improve the stamp impressions on articles of mail;

(iii) To monitor the punctuality and efficiency of the service periodically;

(iv) To install the multipurpose computerised counter machines at 4000 post office counters;

(v) Monitoring the delivery system in the rural areas.

Granite deposits in the country

*231. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated quantity of granite deposits and their value in the country, State-wise;

(b what is their export potential and unit value realisation internally and externally; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to exploit these deposits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Granite occurs in abundance in many States of India because of which the States normally do not take up any large scale exploration of granites.

The reserves of granites so far estimated by the respective State Governments are as follows:—

State	Estimated Reserves	Remarks
	(Figures in million Cub. Mts,)	
1. Andhra Pradesh	3·0	This represents estimation of reserves in a few areas. Estimation work is going on at present to have a more comprehensive assessment of reserves.
2. Assam	43·5	
3. Bihar	19·0	
4. Karnataka	55·7	
5. Rajasthan	0·08	
6. Tamil Nadu	15·9	This represents estmation of reserves of black granites. There is no estimation of reserves of coloured granite yet.
7. West Bengal	7·0	
8. Orissa	..	Estimation of reserves not yet taken up.

Since the value of Granite is estimable only after its extraction in rough blocks or processed form, the value of granite deposits, State-wise cannot be assessed.

(b) There is considerable potential to increase the exports of granite from India taking into account the quality of indigenous granite and the country's negligible share in the world market. The selling price of rough granite in India normally ranges from Rs. 3,000/- to Rs. 4,500/- per cu. m. Black granite fetches a higher price. The price of Indian granite in foreign markets varies from US $400 to US $ 1500 per cu. M. depending upon the quality.

(c) Government have udertaken a series of measures to encourage the growth of granite industry in the country. These include waiver of excise duties on indigenous equipments purchased by 100 per cent Export Oriented granite processing units, concession from payment of tax under Section-80 HHC of Income Tax Act, and provision of export finance at concessional rates to achieve higher exports.

उत्तर प्रदेश के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में अतिरिक्त डाकघरों का खोला जाना

***232. श्री ईश दत्त यादव:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार उत्तर प्रदेश के आजमगढ़, मऊ, गाजीपुर, जौनपुर और सुल्तानपुर जिलों के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में अतिरिक्त डाकघर खोलने का विचार रखती है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है ?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री राजेश पायलट) : (क) जी हां। वर्ष 1991–92 के दौरान उत्तर प्रदेश के आजमगढ़ जिले में 9, मऊ जिले में 6 तथा गाजीपुर और जौनपुर जिलों में 10–10 अतिरिक्त विभागीय शाखा डाकघर खोलने का प्रस्ताव है बशर्ते कि वे मानदण्डों को पूरा करते हों । सुल्तानपुर जिले में 1991–92 के दौरान 18 अतिरिक्त विभागीय शाखा डाकघर खोले जा चुके हैं तथा इस वर्ष इस जिले में कोई और शाखा डाकघर खोलने की योजना नहीं है ।

(ख) आजमगढ़, मऊ और जौनपुर जिलों में जिन-जिन स्थानों पर 1991-92 के दौरान अतिरिक्त विभागीय शाखा डाकघर खोलने का प्रस्ताव है, उनका विवरण "क" में दिया गया (नीचे देखिये) । सुल्तानपुर जिले के उन स्थानों के नाम विवरण "ख" में दिए गए हैं (नीचे देखिए) जहां 1991-92 के दौरान 18 अतिरिक्त विभागीय शाखा डाकघर खोले गए हैं ।